

**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Presentation by Tree Lodi on the Status of the 2006 Centennial Cork Oak Trees

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2010

PREPARED BY: Steve Dutra, Park Superintendent

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Presentation by Tree Lodi on the status of the 2006 Centennial cork oak trees.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: As part of the City of Lodi's Centennial celebration in 2006, the City, Tree Lodi, and a number of community volunteers undertook a project to plant 100 trees donated by citizens in parks around the City. During the year-long project, 93 cork oak trees were planted in Hale, Lawrence, Salas, Beckman, English Oaks, Kofu, Vinewood, Henry Graves and Lodi Lake parks. In addition, seven valley oak trees were transplanted on the north side of Lodi Lake.

As part of its commitment to the Centennial oak project, Tree Lodi carried on stewardship of the 100 oak trees over the course of the next three years. At the conclusion of this three year period, a survey was completed which found that although most of the trees were maturing nicely, a number had to be replaced for several reasons.

In February 2010, Tree Lodi committed \$1,000 to this replanting effort. Members and community volunteers planted 30 cork oak trees in the aforementioned parks in order to bring the total Centennial oak project back up to 100 trees. Tree Lodi has now completed its specific stewardship of the trees and is pleased to turn the care and maintenance of the hundred Centennial oak trees back to the City of Lodi.

Tree Lodi thanks the Lodi City Council for their foresight and vision for the urban forest of the community as demonstrated by the Centennial oak project. Maintaining and planting of Lodi's urban forest is an ongoing and rewarding endeavor. Tree Lodi is pleased to play a part in spearheading this effort.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

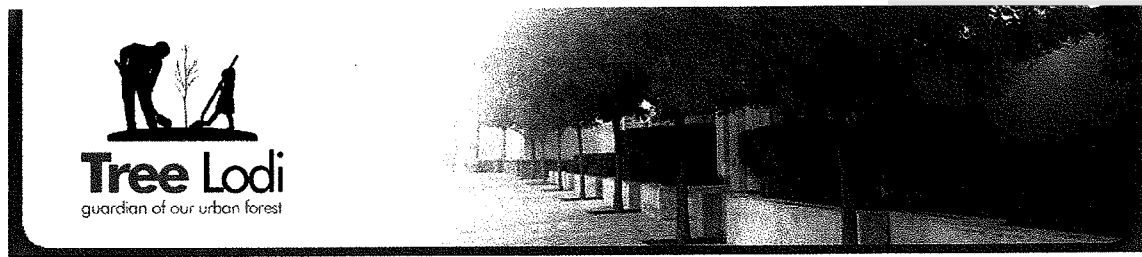
FUNDING AVAILABLE: None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Rodems".
James M. Rodems
Interim Parks and Recreation Director

JMR\SD:tl

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Konradt Bartlam".
Konradt Bartlam, Interim City Manager



City of Lodi Centennial Oak Project 2006 -- 2010

As part of the city of Lodi's Centennial year celebration in *2006*, the city, Tree Lodi, and a number of community volunteers undertook a project to plant one hundred (100) oak trees, donated by citizens, in parks around the city. During the year-long project ninety-three (93) cork oak trees were planted in Hale, Lawrence, Salas, Beckman, English Oaks, Kofu, Vinewood, Graves, and Lodi Lake parks, as well as seven (7) Valley Oak trees that were transplanted on the north side of Lodi Lake.



As part of its commitment to the Centennial Oak Project, Tree Lodi carried on stewardship of the **100** oak trees over the course of the next three years. At the conclusion **of** this three-year period a survey was completed which found that although most of the trees were maturing nicely, a number had to be replaced for several reasons.

In February, 2010, Tree Lodi committed \$ 1,000 to this replanting effort, and members and several community volunteers planted **30** cork oak trees, where needed, in the afore mentioned parks in order to bring the total Centennial Oak Project back up to 100 trees.

Tree Lodi has now completed its specific stewardship of the trees and is pleased to ~~turn~~ the care and maintenance of the hundred Centennial Oak Trees back to the City of Lodi.

The Centennial Oak Trees are all around us. As you leave the Council Chambers this evening be sure to pay a visit to the first tree planted in the Centennial Oak Project during a special ceremony held on February 7, 2006. It is located just east of the walkway entrance to the building. The last tree planting occurred at Hutchins Street Square, December 6, 2006, on the east side of the auditorium.. Keep these two trees in mind as you visit the various parks in the community that also proudly display Centennial Oak Trees.

Tree ~~Lodi~~ thanks the Lodi City Council for their foresight and vision for the urban forest of the community as demonstrated by the Centennial Oak Project. In another five years we will witness dramatic growth in these trees as well as the many other trees of various varieties Tree Lodi has had the pleasure of planting in parks around the city as part of other projects. Can you imagine these trees twenty-five, forty, and fifty years from now?

As we look ahead, our next major urban forestry project will be the planting of more than two hundred (200) trees in the new DeBenedetti Park area during the spring of 2011. Tree Lodi is presently undertaking the promoting of this project, the raising of funds for the trees, and gathering the four-hundred (400) community volunteers who will be planting the trees.

Maintaining and the planting of Lodi's urban forest is an on-going and rewarding endeavor. Tree ~~Lodi~~ is pleased to play a part in spearheading this effort. A visit to our website, www.TreeLodi.org, provides a page of local events that we have been involved in over the past five years of our existence.



Tree Lodi is committed to the preservation of trees

Did you know that Lodi has an urban forestry organization? Since its founding in 2005, Tree Lodi, Inc. has become increasingly involved in the preservation, planting and promotion of trees for the beautification of our city.

Tree Lodi's first big project, commissioned by the Lodi City Council, was the planting of many of the 100 Centennial Cork Oak Trees in 2006--the first in front of Carnegie Hall and the last at Hutchins Street Square. "Almost every park in Lodi has benefited from the efforts of Tree Lodi", stated Steve Dutra, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

"Lodi is fortunate to have this strong organization", said founder, Joyce Harmon, "Although we are a small group, we have arborists, horticulturists, a nursery owner, teachers, and enthusiastic citizens among our members."

According to president Gordon Schmierer, the Lodi City Council has been especially supportive and has recently commissioned Tree Lodi's next big project--partnering with the city in establishing the new DeBenedetti Park on Lower Sacramento Road at Century Blvd. where the group will be planting 200 trees with the help of **400** volunteers. This community effort will hopefully be completed by Arbor Day, 2011. Volunteers are already signing up and donations are being accepted.



Lodi Lake Park Nature Area Reforestation, April, 2010, with CLEW'S (Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship)

Did you know that Tree Lodi is affiliated with The Community Foundation through an endowment that benefits Lodi's trees, and that we participate in Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations at schools and parks, all of which include tree plantings where we focus on educating students about trees by having them assist us?



Arbor Day Celebration at Lawrence Elementary School, April, 9, 2010

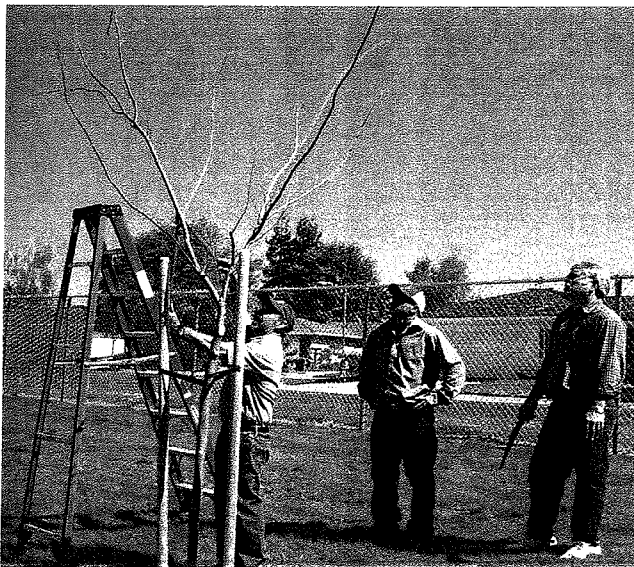
Are you aware that Tree Lodi has a Memorial Tree Program that is free to applicants and that memorial trees and gardens have been planted at Lodi Lake Park and Vinewood Park? We also contributed to the renovation of the Sunshine Trail at Micke Grove.



Memorial Tree Planting, Lodi Lake Park, November, 2006

Did you know that Tree Lodi has planted 30 free front yard trees for homeowners and participated in two events at Hutchins Square sponsored by Lodi Electric Utility, where Tree Lodi assisted homeowners in planting trees donated by the city? Our aim is to keep adding to Lodi's tree canopy with each event.

Have you noticed the row of trees planted at Lawrence Park to replace trees that will be removed when Lockeford St. is widened? Would you participate with your neighbors in a plan to remove mistletoe?



Vinewood Elementary School Tree Maintenance/Workshop, March, 2010

Does Tree Lodi have a project that interests you? For more information on Tree Lodi's activities and future plans, please go to our website, www.TreeLodi.org

Monthly meeting are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the Parks and Recreation Annex, 111 N. Stockton St. For details, please call 209-334-6668 or 209-368-9013. Remember, volunteering is "in" and Lodi's trees are yours to enjoy.*

*NOTE: This article was published, in part, in the Panorama section of the **Lodi News-Sentinel**, June 25, 2010



August 16, 2010

Dear Friend,

DeBenedetti Park has been twenty-five years in the making. The property is forty-nine acres located at the ~~corner~~ of Lower Sacramento Road and Century Boulevard. *It will become our newest city park; serving as our premier sports complex with playing fields and other public features.*

Gordon Schmierer
President
Steve Dutra
Vice President
Joyce Harmon

Ron Marien
Treasurer

Directors
Richard Blackston
Andi Kutlik
Bill Hobson
Bruce Schweigerdt

Stewards
Mike Butcher
Darrell Drummond
Gerry Fish
Ray Fyi
Derric Juano
Esther Milnes
Nancy Nakamura
Robert Raingruber
Vern Weigum

This is good news. You have an opportunity to share with **Tree Lodi** in the development of the park with your donation toward **200** trees and materials for planting in the **spring, 2011**. **Tree Lodi** is a community based non-profit organization created to promote and advocate the planting, maintenance and preservation of Lodi's **urban** forest.

In the past five years, **Tree Lodi** has completed some large projects, like the planting of **100** Centennial Cork Oak trees in various parks and locations throughout the city. We also share with community partners in Arbor Day, **Earth** Day, and **Tree** City USA at schools and city parks by planting trees and educating the public about the benefits of trees and how to care for them.

This is **your turn** to be a **member** of the team with a donation that will be **used** for **DeBenedetti Park's** completion. The city has contracted for utilities, landscaping, and other property requirements, **but** the city has limited funding. The basic concept is for **every** dollar that is donated, one dollar more **can** be spent on the construction of the park.

Tree Lodi has received verbal support from local civic clubs, school groups, churches, the **immediate** neighborhood of **this** park and community **individuals**. While we are receiving help from these **groups**, we **still** need your donation in order to reach **our** goal of **\$25,000** so **that** we **can** continue plans for our new park that everyone can enjoy.

Sincerely, 
Gordon Schmierer Sr., President

P.S. The trees in DeBenedetti **Park** will be Your Legacy when you donate.

Tree Lodi Inc., 2715 W Kettleman Lane, Ste 203-126, Lodi, CA 95242
www.TreeLodi.org
All gifts are tax deductible. Tree Lodi is a 501(c)(3) organization. TaxID #2810577

GOALS

- **PROMOTE** - To encourage members of the community to engage in the planting and maintenance of trees throughout Lodi
- **ADVOCATE** - To speak on behalf of Lodi's urban forest
- **EDUCATION** - To provide current and accurate information to the community concerning tree issues
- **STEWARDSHIP** - To teach the citizens of Lodi to be managers of our urban forest
- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** - To involve the citizens of Lodi in their urban forest



Magnificent fall colors adorn
Hutchins Street Square



Trees in bloom beautify
Church Street in the spring



Tree Lodi members
demonstrate tree planting
at Arbor Day 2006

Gordon Schmierer, President
Steve Dutra, Vice President
Joyce Harmon, Secretary
Ron Marien, Treasurer
Richard Blackston, Director
Bill Hobson, Director
Andi Kutlik, Director
Bruce Schweigerdt, Director

TREE LODI

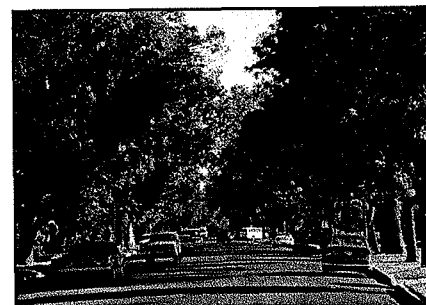
2715 Kettleman Lane,
Suite 203-126
Lodi, CA 95242

Phone: (209) 334-6668
www.treelodi.org

Email: info@treelodi.org

Tree Lodi

501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation



Wonderful tree lined streets
welcome visitors to Lodi

Who Is Tree Lodi?

"Tree Lodi is a community based non-profit organization created to promote and advocate for the planting, maintenance and preservation of Lodi's urban forest through education, stewardship and community involvement"

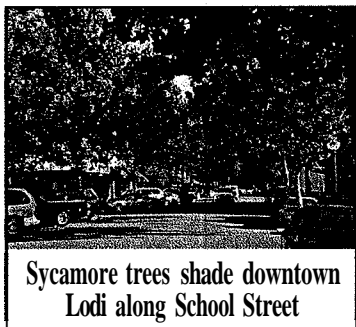
We are teachers, homemakers, arborists, business owners, managers and retired folks . . . citizens just like you. We appreciate trees, what they do for our community and the environment. We are determined to make a difference in Lodi's urban forest.

Our group is involved in local beautification projects and we work in cooperation with the City of Lodi, Lodi Unified School District,

community

organizations, local businesses, and citizens. We are a valuable resource for those seeking information about trees and their care, and can speak at community service groups and other functions. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to make a difference! Contact us today at:

treelodi@yahoo.com



Sycamore trees shade downtown Lodi along School Street

Benefits of Trees

- Increase property values
- Beautify business districts, encourage pedestrian traffic and provide longer shopping enjoyment
- Provide shade and save energy costs
- Provide oxygen and reduce pollution
- Prevent soil erosion
- Provide shelter for wildlife
- Provide privacy



Education about trees and their care is one of our goals

Did you know?

Right Tree . . . Right Place

- Does your tree have enough room to grow and reach its mature size?
- Have you selected the right tree for your yard and will it provide enough shade?
- Is the area too wet or dry for the type of tree you have selected?
- Will your tree interfere with overhead utility wires when it reaches full size?
- Will your tree cause problems in the future with underground utilities?
- Does the tree you selected tend to be surface rooted? What about sidewalks, driveways and building foundations?
- Will your tree be too close to your home?

Get involved today !!!

We are looking for citizens, businesses and community groups who want to make a difference in our wonderful town. Stand up and take pride in our community! Help us work toward a goal of ensuring that future generations of Lodians will have beautiful tree lined streets in which to live, work, and play. We can all be proud that Lodi is a distinguished Tree City **USA** so let's keep the legacy going. Call or email us today for more information. We look forward to seeing you at a future Tree Lodi event.



Community members get involved by planting trees in Salas Park

Vinewood School students lend a hand planting trees in Vinewood Park



Tree Lodi members take part in the first tree planting ceremony for Lodi's centennial. One down and 99 to go!

Come join the fun !!!